

John Rankine

John Rankine was born on 21 February 1921 at Kempsey, where his father was a doctor. He went to school at Cranbrook and on leaving became a draftsman, and studied Engineering at night at Sydney Technical College. He joined the Army in 1940 and became a gunnery officer on Hammond Island in Torres Strait.

Rankine commenced his engineering degree course at Sydney University in 1945 and upon graduation in 1949, joined Stanley & Llewellyn. He left for England at the end of the year.

He joined Sir Alexander Gibb & Ptnrs and after 3 months went to work with Allan Harris, one of the engineers behind the Mulberry Harbour, constructed for the invasion of Europe in World War II. During this time he also worked in France for Freyssinet, the inventor of prestressed concrete.

Returned to Australia in 1950 and resumed with Stanley & Llewellyn. After a year he became a full Partner and remained for 4 years.

Successful in gaining a Fullbright Scholarship and entry to MIT to do a Master of Engineering. Did well and visited many major projects and eminent engineers and architects.

Returned to Australia in October 1958, with John Hill formed the very successful consulting engineering firm of Rankine & Hill. Almost immediately given job to design British Motor Corporation's new car factory at Waterloo. The design for this factory was the product of determination, good organisation and Mr Rankine working non stop over one weekend, keeping himself awake with Benzedrine tablets!

Opened offices in Canberra in 1960, in Kuala Lumpur in 1961 and Melbourne in 1965. Later established in New Zealand.

Did Masters Degree in Traffic and Transportation at University of California, Berkeley.

1970 invited to join UNESCO's Council of Tall Buildings, becoming Chairman for four years from 1982.

Invited by Defence Department to become Technical Adviser to the Business Adviser. Held position for 8 years. Positions abolished and invited to become Special Technical adviser on Major Projects to the Department of Defence - position still held.

1971 appointed to Technical Advisory Committee of new State Pollution Control Commission.

Invited onto Board of Mercantile Mutual Insurance Company in August 1971 and remained Director until 1994.

1974 appointed as Member of Zoological Parks Board.

His credo is "Service and client satisfaction". He had a policy of fixing mistakes first (and quickly) and arguing over fault and who was to pay later.

Soon after his retirement in 1983, Rankine and Hill were employing over 900 people.

Early in 1998 Mr Rankine published his autobiography entitled *The World is Your Client*. He was inspired to write the autobiography after the Sydney Division of the IEAust had interviewed him for its Oral History Program. However, the book is much more than just a series of reminiscences, because it reflects on what constitutes business success.